including the BBC. The experience of BBC, as a public broadcaster, was discussed in order to get inputs for policy-making in the realm of Public Broadcast in India.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Japan, USA and UK from 12th June to 22nd June, 2001. As a Leader of the delegation of the top captains of Indian Entertainment Industry (brought together by FICCI), she visited Japan and USA. Some of the immediate achievements are: (i) the possibility of more Indian films being released in Japan, with the NHK considering to increase the number of Indian films screened by them (ii) talks have been initiated by Indian companies with their Japanese counterparts for doing animation work in India (iii) an increased interest evinced by US companies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) in funding the media and broadcast sectors (iv) an offer of assistance from Motion Picture Association of America (MPA) to help curb piracy of Indian films in the US. In addition, the members of the delegation got extensive opportunity to interact with their overseas counterparts.

In UK, the Minister held discussions with Regulator for Telecommunications Industries (OFTEL) which provided useful inputs for setting up similar institutions in India, in the light of convergence technology.

Fraud in Awarding Commercial Rights in Sunday Feature Film

1593. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has recently booked senior officials of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati for fraudulently awarding commercial rights of the Sunday feature film slot in Bengali on Kolkata Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much pecuniary benefit was given to the company?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CBI/ACB/Kolkata have registered case *vide* No. RC. 19/2001 dated 8/6/2001 against the following officials of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati:

(i) Shri Kalyan Ghosh, Assistant Station Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.

(ii) Shri A.K. Biswas, the then Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.

(iii) Shri Anurag Misra, the then Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi.

(iv) Shri Shashanka Narayan, the Assistant Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi.

(c) CBI has informed that it is alleged that percuniary benefit to the tune of approximately Rs. 1.51 crores was caused to the company.

Amount spent on improving the standard of news on Doordarshan

†1594. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the name of improving the standard of news at non-prime time, Doordarshan has spent crores of rupees in barely one year;

(b) if so, the details of the total amount spent;

(c) whether the standard of the news has improved;

(d) whether it is a fact that the viewership is declining continuously;

(e) who is responsible for duping Government of crores of rupees deceptively;

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(g) the manner in which Government will recover the bungled amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Filling up Post of Directors in Broadcasting Stations of J and K

1595. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post of directors in respect of two major and sensitive broadcasting stations in J and K i.e. Radio Kashmir, Srinagar and Doordarshan Kendra are duly sanctioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both these important stations are being headed by two deputy director rank officers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.